

REMARKS

In the Official Action, the Examiner rejected claim 11 under the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. §112 and rejected claims 1-7, 9 and 11 on prior art grounds. The Examiner only objected to claim 10 and indicated that such claim would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By the present Amendment, claim 11 has been amended to make it clear that the water-receptive layer does not contain a cross-linking agent and that the hydrophilic resin is not cross-linked. Applicant believes that the current language in claim 11 is more in line with the understanding of the Examiner as set forth in the Official Action and is consistent with the description provided in the specification such in the paragraph bridging pages 19 and 20 which again discloses that the cross-linking agents may be added to the water-receptive layer. The paragraph also sets forth illustrative cross-linking agents for the hydrophilic resin (the Examiner has correctly noted in the Action that the preceding paragraph on page 19 refers to colloids and not the hydrophilic resin). The illustrative Examples in the specification describe different embodiments of the water-receptive layer and from the absence of the cross-linking agents of the type described in the aforementioned paragraph bridging pages 19 and 20, it is evident that in various instances the hydrophilic resin of the water-receptive layer is not cross-linked. Hence, applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 11 is fully supported by the specification.

Turning to the prior art rejections set forth in the Action, the present Amendment incorporates the subject matter of claim 10 into claim 1 with claim 10 accordingly being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, while applicant does not necessarily

agree with the positions taken by the Examiner regarding the cited prior art, the amendments to the previous claims of record are believed to fully meet the rejections and to place such claims in condition for allowance consistent with the statement by the Examiner regarding the subject matter of claim 10.

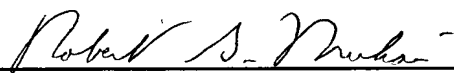
New independent claim 12 combines the recitations of original claims 1 and 2 and the subject matter of claim 11 as currently amended. New dependent claims 13-20 parallel former claims 3-10 with claim 18 defining the overcoat layer and claims 19 and 20 depending therefrom. Claim 12 is also believed to be patentable over the art of record since the cited prior art does not teach a heat-sensitive lithographic printing plate precursor having on a support (1) an ink-receptive layer comprising an oleophilic organic high molecular compound, and (2) a water-receptive layer easily allowing removal by a fountain solution or a printing ink when heated with the water-receptive layer being defined as comprising a hydrophilic resin and a colloid of oxide or hydroxide of at least one element selected from the group consisting of beryllium, magnesium, aluminum, silicon, titanium, boron, germanium, tin, zirconium, iron, vanadium, antimony and transition metals, wherein the water-receptive layer does not contain a cross-linking agent and the hydrophilic resin is not cross-linked, and the ink-receptive layer and the water-receptive layer are arranged in this order. The water-receptive layer is further defined as being a layer formed using a coating solution comprising a solvent capable of dissolving the organic high molecular compound of the ink-receptive layer in a proportion of 1 to 40 weight % of the total solvents in the coating solution. The claims depending on claim 12 recite additional aspects of the invention and are further patentable over the cited prior art.

Accordingly, since all matters raised in the Action are believed to be resolved by the instant Amendment and the new claims are also believed to be fully patentable, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application.

Should the Examiner wish to discuss any aspect of the present application, she is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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